

SENATOR CHAMBERS: For coats and garments and whatever else they want to be...to be used for?

SENATOR RUPP: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I don't like hunting, although I can understand people taking animals for food if they need it. I don't think any person who calls himself or herself a hunter would put a creature in a small enclosure and take potshots at it until that animal no longer lives. To raise animals for the purposes determined here, I think is inappropriate. If a sheep is raised for the wool, the wool can be taken without taking the life. With these animals, to take the fur, the life must be taken. And I know there are some people who feel that since human beings have been given dominion over the universe, they can do anything they want to with anything that is here, use anything they please in any way they choose for their own purposes. But sometimes nature has a way of paying human beings back. I don't know what all those ways are. But there is an order to the universe, or an apparent order. There is an apparent balance, and when human beings step in and begin to upset that balance, there are repercussions, some of which are negative, to human beings, pesticides, the taking of too many trees from the forest, the erosion of the land, the sodbusting and the other types of things. I think there ought to be some respect...I won't use the term "reverence" because I don't worship animals, I don't view them as I do human beings, but those creatures which are helpless, as compared to human beings, ought not be treated in a cruel, almost barbaric fashion. When we come to issues like this, we form valued judgments. Because of our background and our experiences, we arrive at different conclusions about things. Where money is involved, a lot of issues become blurred and the most important consideration is how much money can be obtained by doing a certain thing or refraining from it. To raise these animals, which I have seen on television described as majestic, they will show these various programs, Wild Kingdom, The Discovery Channel on 31 in Omaha, which is a cable channel, that gives you some background into how these animals live and how they fit into the ecological system. And then you come to the human being, which is supposed to be the only rational or thinking animal on the face of the earth and perhaps in the universe, and you find a type of cruelty and needless killing that you don't find anywhere else in the animal universe. It is not essential to the warmth and protection of human beings to kill these animals and take their fur. The